

AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising increasing resistance of passage of urine through a urethra comprising administering a prosthetic device, said prosthetic device comprising a hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

10. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the polymer is prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

11. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 15% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

12. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

13. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

14. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 80% by weight pyrogen-free water or saline solution.

15. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 80, or 85, wherein the administering comprises injecting the hydrogel.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the injecting of the hydrogel comprises injections which include injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the urethra.

17. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, further comprising the inclusion of cells.

18-28. (Previously Cancelled)

29. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 10% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

30. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 7.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

31. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

32. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 3.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

33. (Previously Cancelled)

34. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.6% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

35. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

36. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells comprise stem cells.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the urethra.

39-51. (Previously Cancelled)

52. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the polymer is substantially comprised of cross-linked polyacrylamide.

53. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the polymer consists essentially of a polyacrylamide crosslinked with methylene bis-acrylamide.

54-61. (Previously Cancelled)

62. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 75% by weight pyrogen-free water or saline solution.

63-66. (Previously Cancelled)

67. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has an elasticity modulus of about 5 to 150 Pa.

68. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has an elasticity modulus of about 10 to 100 Pa.

69. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the elasticity modulus and the complex viscosity are related by a factor of 5.8 to 6.4.

70.-77. (Previously Cancelled)

78. (Previously amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising injecting a hydrogel in a urethra, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

79. (Previously amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising injecting a urethral bulking agent, wherein said bulking agent comprises a hydrogel comprising i) pyrogen-free water or saline solution and ii) about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, wherein said hydrogel has fewer than 50 ppm monomer units, and a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa, and wherein the polymer is prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide.

80. (Previously amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising bulking the urethra by administering a prosthetic device, said prosthetic device comprising a hydrogel, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

81. (Previously Cancelled)

82. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 85% by weight pyrogen-free water or saline solution.

83. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 90% by weight pyrogen-free water or saline solution.

84. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 95% by weight pyrogen-free or aqueous saline solution.

85. (Currently Amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising providing [adequate] resistance in a urethra by bulking the urethra comprising administering an prosthetic device, said prosthetic device comprising a hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel is homogenized.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 62, wherein said polymer is polyacrylamide.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 3 to 15 Pas and wherein the elasticity modulus and the complex viscosity are related by a factor of 5.8 to 6.4.

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel includes less than 10 ppm monomeric units.

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.5% and less than 10% by weight polyacrylamide; at least 90% by weight pyrogen-free water or saline solution, based on the total weight of the hydrogel; less than 10 ppm monomeric units; a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas; and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 100 Pa.